(a) whether the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country have been badly hit by the global economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much job loss has been caused due to this crisis;

(c) whether Government has not come up with any plan to save the interests of the micro, small and medium enterprises as has been done in the case of other sectors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the specific demands of the sector; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address the issues?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) In the wake of recent global financial crisis, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has been receiving representations from various Micro and Small Enterprises (MSB) Associations highlighting problems with regard to credit squeeze by the banks, high rates of interest on MSE loans, reduction in orders, delayed payments by the big enterprises, etc. While no specific information on job loss has been furnished, the Associations apprehend that if the present situation continues, it may lead to considerable lay-offs in the sector.

The Government has announced on 7th December 2008 specific measures to support the MSME sector, which *inter alia* include: (i) extending guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme on loans from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.I crore with guarantee cover of 50 per cent and reducing lock-in period for loans covered under the scheme from 24 to 18 months; (ii) to issue an advisory to Central Public Sector Enterprises and request to State Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iii) cut of 4 per cent in the ad valorem Cenvat rate for the balance part of current financial year on all products (other than petroleum and those where the current rate is less than 4 per cent) and (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector upto 31st March 2009. Further, the Reserve Bank of India has announced a refinance facility of Rs. 7,000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to facilitate the flow of credit to MSMEs.

Amenities to labourers at Shakurbasti cement siding

†1365. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5200 labourers are engaged in loading and unloading at Shakurbasti cement siding in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these labourers are not provided with the facilities of sleeping, toilet, bathrooms etc. and they work under adverse situation;

(c) the number of requests made to Government by Railway Contractor Works Men's Union Cement Siding, Shakurbasti to provide various facilities to these labourers; and

(d) by when proper management by Government would be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As labourers engaged in loading/unloading at Shakurbasti cement siding are arranged by private contractors on behalf of railway customers, no record of number of labourers is maintained by railway administration.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) Basic facilities such as drinking water and lighting arrangement have been provided at the siding.

(c) and (d) Three representations have so far been received from various Labour Unions. Tenders have been floated to provide toilet and additional drinking water facilities at the siding.

Railway projects of Rajasthan

†1366. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on various railway projects of the State of Rajasthan for last three years till now;

(b) the number of proposed projects in the State which have been completed or under construction in the last three years; and

(c) the target set for completion of existing under construction and sanctioned projects alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rs. 2208.34 crore for projects falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) 6 projects have been completed and other 16 are in various stages.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

Target set for completion of under construction as well as sanctioned projects

Status of ongoing Railway Projects in the State of Rajasthan

S. No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost 2008-09 (Rs in crores)	Anti. Exp. up to Mar. 2008 (Rs in crores)	Outlay for 2008-09 (Rs. in crore)	Remarks including Target Date of Completion (TDC) wherever fixed.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ajmer-Pushkar New Line (31.4 kms)	88.4	46.05	19	Earthwork, bridge work, ballast supply and RUB work in progress. Overall physical progress-45%.
2	Bangurgram-Ras New line (27.8 kms)	99.09	0	1	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition under process.
3	Dausa-Gangapurcity New Line (92.67kms)	332.72	37.06	14	Earthwork, bridge works in progress. Overall physical progress-25%.
4	Ramganimandi-Bhopal New Line (262 kms)	726.05	97.45	30	Earthwork & bridge work in progress. Overall physical progress-11%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi